DAWN

KARACHI Wednesday, November 5, 2025

METRO South

KARACHI

Sunset	05:50pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:41am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	17°C
Maximum	35°C
Humidity	26%
Outlook	Sunny

Contributions all around as Pakistan beat SA in first ODI

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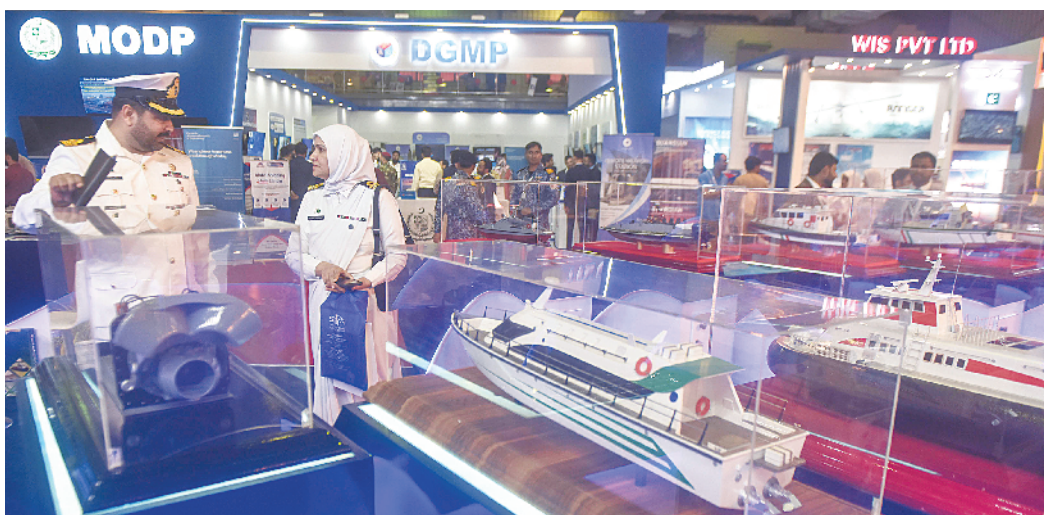

(CLOCKWISE from top left) Visitors ride on waves without getting their feet wet thanks to simulators; people take a keen interest in ship and boat models; women try their hand at state-of-the-art weaponry; and, a group of students take a look at the long-range kamikaze (loitering munition) drone Sarfarosh during the second edition of the Pakistan International Maritime Expo in Karachi on Tuesday.—INP / Fahim Siddiqi / PPI / Reuters

Unmanned underwater vehicles, torpedo grab visitors' attention at maritime expo

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: All the halls of the Expo Centre, Karachi were taken up by national and international exhibitors, showcasing the best in technology and productivity as the Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference 2025 (PIMEC-25) went into its second day on Tuesday.

With stalls set up by various firms from countries including Iran, Germany, Saudi Arabia and China, the visitors' interest remained mostly on equipment developed in their own country, Pakistan.

Unmanned devices such as those used for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and exploration or harbour channel monitoring and ocean floor mapping such as the autonomous underwater vehicles and the unmanned vehicles by Beyond Koncept, a Pakistani manufacturer, generated much interest. The same company also built the ultra-lightweight torpedo, Eghraa. In the evolving landscape of naval warfare, the torpedo is a paradigm shift in antisubmarine warfare.

At the Ministry of Defence stall, there were models of air defence missile weapon systems, surface to surface

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Four more die of dengue as death toll climbs to 20

13 died in October, seven in November so far, health dept says

KARACHI: The dengue fever situation is getting worse day by day as the health department declared on Tuesday the death of four more patients.

According to the latest data released by the department, 20 people have so far died of dengue fever in the province, four of them in the last 24 hours, while more than 1,200 patients tested positive for the mosquito-borne viral infection in a single day.

While the health department has confirmed 20 deaths, the actual number of fatalities is said to be much higher in Karachi and Hyderabad.

The official figures show that 13 deaths were reported in October in Sindh: four in Hyderabad, one in Tando Muhammad Khan, one in Korangi, three in Malir, two in Karachi East and two in Karachi West.

In November, seven patients have lost their lives to dengue fever: five in Hyderabad, one in Tando Allahyar and one in Keamari.

"Several of these patients had serious underlying medical complications, which contributed to their worsening condition," Health Secretary Rehan Baloch clarified in a press statement.

All deaths were reviewed by hospital committees and, only after thorough assessment, was dengue fever confirmed as the cause of death, he added, requesting the public not to believe unverified information.

"A new viral mutation reported internationally might be contributing to the disease's severity in some cases," he pointed out, while stating that the dengue response cell was fully activated, field operations remained active, and hospital capacities were being expanded.

Health experts, however, believe that urgent vector-control measures and public awareness initiatives are required to control the situation.

Complications in cases, they say, occur due to self-medication and inadequate hydration. Some medications, including painkillers and antibiotics, can cause a low platelet count, which may lead to excessive bleeding.

Dengue, a mosquito-borne viral infection transmitted by the Aedes aegypti mosquito, remains a recurring health concern in Sindh.

Health experts have attributed the surge in dengue cases to a lack of fumigation and the delayed drainage of water accumulated after the heavy monsoon rains.

Most people with dengue have mild or no symptoms and recover within one to two weeks. Symptoms may include high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain, nausea, vomiting and rash.—By Faiza Ilyas

Mob torches dumper after reckless driving claims youth's life

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: A fast-moving dumper fatally struck a young man and injured his wife in the Garden area on Tuesday, police said.

The incident triggered a violent protest as residents gathered at the scene and set the heavy vehicle on fire.

"A garbage truck hit a motorcyclist on Nishtar Road near Karachi Sweets, killing him," South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn*.

He identified the deceased as 23-year-old Shahzeb Shahid and his wife as Misbah.

"The public set the dumper on fire," the officer confirmed and said that the blaze was later extinguished but nearly half of the vehicle was destroyed.

The dumper driver, Niazullah Afzal, was arrested and booked in a case under Sections 320 (negligent driving) and 337-G (hurt by rash or negligent driving) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

Meanwhile, police also registered a separate case against Liaquat Mehsud, the Sindh president of the All Dumper Truck Owners Association, and other suspects for firing on the enraged protesters at the site of the incident.

In the FIR, complainant Abdul Qadir, who introduced himself as a social worker, said he was present at Nishter Road, where at around 3:30am, Mehsud arrived with 20-25 people, including two to three armed men, who resorted to firing on the protesters and fled.

However, a sessions court granted Mehsud interim bail against a surety bond of Rs50,000.

Funeral prayer

Later in the evening, the funeral prayer for deceased Shahzeb was held on Mirza Adam Road and was largely attended by leaders of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan, Jamaat-i-Islami, Pakistan Peoples Party and local residents. He was later laid to rest in a nearby graveyard.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori visited the residence of Shahzeb and offered condolences to the bereaved family. He termed the incident deeply regrettable and called for exemplary punishment for those responsible for such incidents.

Separately, PTI Karachi president Raja Azhar said that the "dumper mafia" had become unchecked due to the Sindh government's failure to ensure public safety.

He claimed that so far this year, 731 people had lost their lives in traffic accidents, including 217 killed by heavy vehicles, which he attributed to the government's "criminal negligence."

Chief secretary, police chief issued notices on petition challenging heavy traffic fines

Petitioner asks SHC to direct Sindh govt, police to impose reasonable and justified penalties over traffic violations

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Tuesday issued notices to the chief secretary, inspector general of police (IGP) and other respondents on a petition challenging the heavy traffic fines in the form of the recently inaugurated e-challan system in the metropolis.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice Mohammad Iqbal Kalhoro also put the advocate general on notice for Nov 25.

Petitioner Syed Johar Abbas Rizvi moved the SHC against the hefty financial penalties upon vehicles' owners and cited the CS, IGP, DIG-Traffic and others as respondents.

He submitted that Sindh government has fixed Rs40,000 as minimum salary for unskilled workers and if a worker was fined Rs5,000 for jumping traffic lights, the same amount will be 12.9 per cent of his total monthly salary.

He claimed that the penalty for the same violation was only Rs200 in Lahore.

The petitioner also contended that the impugned e-challan system was put in place without provision of basic infrastructure as many roads of the city were in dilapidated condition or under construction while traffic signals in various parts of the city were also out of order and speed limits boards had also not been installed.

He maintained that around Rs12.5 million was collected within six hours after the enforcement of the e-challan system, but it was uncertain where these funds would be utilised and what would be the procedure as citizens have the right to know about utilisation of such funds/fines.

He argued that the e-challan system was only introduced in Karachi and asked as to why the same was not launched in other major cities of Sindh including Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana and Nawabshah.

The petitioner also submitted that imposition of heavy fines under the e-challan system in the city was against equity and justice, which needed to be reviewed by the authorities concerned and must be comparable and equable to other large cities of the country including Lahore.

He asked the SHC to direct the respondents to impose reasonable and justified penalties for traffic violations.

After a preliminary hearing, the bench in its order said, "Notice to the respondents as well as AB Sindh for 25.11.2025."

An identical petition was also landed in the SHC last week against the impugned system seeking to declare the new system's implementation without prior adequate road infrastructure and ownership-verification safeguards as illegal and unconstitutional.

Man kills wife before ending own life

KARACHI: A man ended his own life after killing his wife in Gulberg on Tuesday, police said.

They added that Khuda Bux, 35, stabbed and killed his wife, 30-year-old Yasmeen, and later on died by suicide as he hanged himself inside his house in Block-5.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi attributed "domestic dispute" as the probable motive. He said that at the time of the incident, no other person was present in the house while the main door was locked from the inside.

The bodies were shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities. The deceased couple originally hailed from Bahawalpur. They had five children.—Staff Reporter

Rano set to be freed from Karachi zoo today

Arrangements finalised to transport female brown bear to rehab centre in Islamabad onboard C-130

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: The female bear Rano, whose cruel captivity has been in the spotlight for several years, is set to be transported from Karachi Zoo to Islamabad on Wednesday (today) through a C-130 aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force on the Sindh High Court's orders.

Sources told *Dawn* Rano's translocation would be the first-of-its-kind animal welfare operation in the country's history. All preparations, including support from the Karachi's traffic police to her travel from the zoo to PAF Faisal Base, her shifting from Nur Khan Airbase, Islamabad, to the bear rehab centre of Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB), and stay at the quarantine facility soon after her relocation, had been finalised.

In this respect, the sources said, a meeting of the committee tasked to ensure her safe relocation was held on Tuesday morning at the zoo where Rano's fitness, travel arrangements as well as different aspects of animal welfare involved in the sensitive operation were reviewed in detail.

The travel plan, the sources said, was being implemented after Rano completed her 10-day long training sessions that provided ample opportunity to both her and trainers — Sana Raja, Abbas, Anees and Abid — to interact and establish a bond of trust and a kind of love.

"We are confident that this bond is strong enough to keep Rano physically and mentally at peace during the 40-minute road and two-hour air travel from Karachi to Islamabad. The team will keep her engage by offering her favourite food in bits during the journey," shared committee's head and Sindh Wildlife Conservator Javed Ahmed Mahar.

Rano, he pointed out, won't be sedated during the journey as this "could be risky".

"Rano is quite comfortable with the team and the cage. In fact, she slept in the same cage last night. A two-vet team will also accompany her for backup support," he said, adding that while the wildlife department had relocated over a dozen rescued bears by road, it's the first time a bear was being relocated by air.

Mr Mahar spoke highly of the PAF for their immediate positive response to the request for Rano's relocation. "I think it's a great moment in the country's history. I appreciate everyone who's contributing for the cause of animal welfare."

It's important to mention here that the whole operation has a legal cover under Section 82 of the Sindh Wildlife Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management Act, 2020.

The clause provides protection to all actions and decisions (or even any adverse happening during the course of events) taken for animal welfare as they are "deemed to be actions done in good faith".

AN official of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board feeds Rano.—Dawn